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which the skull is supposed to have been discovered. Of this portion of his paper, Professor Whitney promises an abstract in time for the next number of the NATURALIST.

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE began its August meeting at Northampton, Mass., on the 25th, and remained in session four days; twenty-five members being present. We extract from the daily press a list of the papers read on Natural History.

Professor J. D. Whitney read an account of the "Origin of Bitumens, and of Experiments upon the Formation of Asphaltum;" and papers "On Topography and Topographical Work west of the 103d Meridian;" "On the Discovery of the Human Skull in Calaveras County, California," and "Some Points in the Surface Geology of the Rocky Mountains."

Mr. L. F. Pourtales read a paper on "Deep-sea Dredging in the Gulf Stream," and Mr. W. M. Gabb one on the "Cretaceous and Tertiary Formations in California."

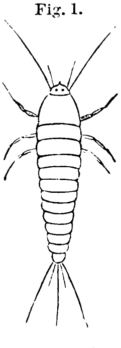
Professor W. H. Brewer made a communication "On the Distribution of Fresh Vegetation west of the Rocky Mountains;" and Professor O. C. Marsh one "On the reputed Discovery of Human Bones at Antelope Station, Pacific Railroad."

Professor G. N. Brush read a paper on "A New Borate from Mine Hill, Sussex County, N. J.;" and Professor J. S. Newberry papers on "The Transportation of the Material of the Carboniferous Conglomerate," and "The Circle of Deposition in Sedimentary Rocks;" and Professor J. P. Lesley read a paper on "Lake Formation."

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. H. B., Chicago, Ill.—The small insects you send belong to an unknown species of Podura, or Springtail, which are minute, wingless neuropterous insects with spines at the end of the body, modified into a leaping apparatus. We would be much obliged for specimens in alcohol of these minute insects, of which little or nothing definite is known in this country. We insert a figure of a Springtail, greatly magnified (Fig. 1), belonging to the genus Machilis. The Springtails are found about manure and refuse heaps, in cellars, under stones and sticks in moist places. You write us that the species found by you (which is related to the *Podura nivicola* of Dr. Fitch, which has been found on the snow, and which occurs abundantly under the bark of trees in early spring with us) "made its appearance in large quantities after the heavy rains. They are scattered throughout the drains in immense quantities, in colonies of from four to twelve inches in diameter. When grouped in such immense quantities, they are of a very dark green color." They use the "spring" almost entirely to hop with.

Fig. 1.



J. G. H., Philadelphia.—Your article was received and promptly acknowledged, but the letter was returned, not having been called for. We will print the article soon, and illustrate it. Many thanks.

E. L., Brighton, Md.—We will answer your queries about the House-fly in a forthcoming article on the Flies, to be illustrated. Flies do not grow after leaving the pupa state. The myriads of flies, little and big, we see through the summer, belong to different *species*, of which there are several thousand in this country. The Seventeen-year Locust is not known to sting; there is a bare possibility that it may insert its beak into the flesh if held between the fingers, as some other "bugs," or hemipterous insects (such as the bed-bug) are known to do.

G. E. S., Homestead, Mich.—We dare not risk naming the fish from your description. Can you not send the skull? We have ordered the book for you from London.

J. W. S., Cromwell, Conn.—The insect you send is the *Ploiaria brevipennis* of Say, a remarkable hemipterous insect, common in the Middle States, but not frequent in New England.

O. N. B., Pomonkey, Md.—We never heard of a Dragon-fly depositing its eggs on its breast. The Libellulidæ are very fully described in Dr. Hagen's Synopsis of the Neuroptera of North America, which can be purchased by applying to B. Westermann & Co., 440 Broadway, New York. We cannot tell what the insect is to which you refer in your postscript without a specimen before us.

W. S., London, Canada.—The insect which you say deposits its eggs in the raspberry stems, is the *Œcanthus niveus*, or tree-cricket.

C. C. C., Lookout Mountain, Tenn.—Any one residing in the Southern States will do us a great favor by sending specimens of "bugs" and insects of all sorts. We want very much insects injurious to the Cotton-plant, especially the caterpillar, chrysalis and moth of the army-worm. Will write you more at length.

W. C. F., Sandwich, Mass.—The insects came safely. The large beetle is probably the *Pasimachus obsoletus* of Le Conte.

S. S. C., Fall River.—The plant is *Marchantia polymorpha* L.

R. A., Fond du Lac, Wis.—The worm you sent was the larva of a fly, *Scenopinus*. We shall have more to say about it in a subsequent number of the NATURALIST. The small "white mites" you found so thick in the flower-pots are, probably, "Springtails." We know of no jumping-mite.

A. P., Hudson, Ohio.—You may be able to obtain cocoons of the Cynthia Silk-worm from Mr. W. V. Andrews, 264 Third Avenue, New York city.

L. W. B.—Try a solution of two parts of carbolic acid to one hundred of water, and syringe your plants with it. You must proceed carefully so as not to injure the hot-house plants.

S. B., Garrettsville, Ohio.—The shell-like objects you sent are the cases made of grains of sand by the larva of a Caddis-fly. We will give a farther account of them hereafter. Try to obtain the larvæ and flies, as the adult state is not known.

J. B., Haverhill, Mass.—The insects sent belong to a species of *Psocus*, which lives on the bark of trees, often eating lichens; they often occur in great numbers.

F. N. O., New York.—The glass sides of the case, containing the insect you enclosed, broke, and the specimen was unfortunately lost. The best way to send any but the largest insects is to cut or punch a hole through a strip of cork, and then tie on a pasteboard cover over the holes. In this way the insect will travel safely, and will cost no additional postage.

J. B., Portsmouth, R. I.—The insects are the male and female of *Strategus Antæus*, a large Lamellicorn beetle.

M. C. R., Hudson, O.—The insects came safely. Please try to raise the worms yourself also.

W. H. L., Clyde, N. Y.—The moth is the *Eudryas grata.*

L. M., Norwich, Conn.—The sample of the so-called Swamp-apple, found on the wild Azalia, was mislaid in some way, and we do not remember seeing it. The caterpillar found on the Common Creeper, *Ampelopsis quinquefolia*, is the larva of *Eudryas grata.* The fact that just before turning to a pupa, it bores into wood buried beneath the surface of the ground, is new and exceedingly interesting to us, as we have long contended that Eudryas is closely related to Castnia, which bores in the stem of plants in the tropics, and is not allied to *Notodonta*, one of the Silk-worm family.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Land and Water. April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, June 6, 13, 20, 27, July 4, 11, 18, 25, August 1. London.

The Quarterly Journal of Science. July. London.

Cosmos. June 13, 20, 27, August 1, 8. Paris.

The Field. June 27; July 4, 18; August 1, 8. 15. London.

American Bee Journal. July, August, September. Washington.

Chemical News. July. New York.

American Cervus. By Hon. John D. Caton. Ottawa, Ill., 1868. 8vo, pp. 43.

The Percheron Horse; translated from the French of Charles du Huys. New York, 1868. Orange Judd & Co. 12mo, pp. 100, illustrated.

The Past and Future of our Planet. By William Denton. Boston, 1868. 8vo.

Journal of Travel and Natural History. Edited by Andrew Murray. Vol. I, Nos. 1-3. London, 1868.

Transactions of the American Entomological Society. Vol. II, No. 1. 8vo, illustrated.

Queries on the Red Sandstone of Vermont. By Rev. J. B. Perry. Boston, 1868. 8vo, pp. 15.